



Edition 24 – August 18TH 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Last week was interesting to say the least. We were back at school, but something felt odd and none of us could quite put our finger on it?

Schools are extremely dynamic. If you have ever been to or hosted a child's birthday party, now imagine there are 160 students at that party! Within any given day we see a range of emotions but as the year moves on, we normally achieve a sense of balance. Students learn their routines and establish key relationships with staff and peers which helps them move past any little hurdles that may crop up.

Unfortunately, this year like last, has seen that balance greatly affected by lockdowns.

I know this effect is being seen in the home as well. Many parents and carers have reported unusual behaviours and highly emotional children.

I may be stating the obvious but at this time we need to take a step back, breathe deeply and reflect.

Jumping from one routine to another takes a lot of energy and brain power. In the past 10 weeks, our routines have been affected by COVID and storms on 4 separate occasions. This is massive.

Here at school, we are trying to pace ourselves. Re-establishing routines with students whilst trying to provide just the right amount of content. We are putting a lot of energy into guiding the students in the way they interact and at the same time trying to give ourselves balance in terms of workload.

Regardless of what the weeks and months ahead look like, I'd like everyone to remember one thing: make yourself a priority. When you feel the batteries are going low, step back and do what you need to do to recharge. The world will keep on spinning 😊

Gene VanderZalm

ZOO EXCURSION CANCELLED

Unfortunately this week's Zoo excursion for our Year3-6 students has been postponed due to Melbourne remaining in lockdown. The excursion is now booked for early next term. Given how things change these days, we will send out details closer to the date.



BOOK CLUB

Issue 6 Scholastic Book Club catalogues have gone home today. Please order via the LOOP app or online via the Scholastic website. Do **not** send orders/money to school. Orders close 9am Monday 30th August.

CALENDAR

Current 18/8 – 24/8

17th Aug - Parent Student Teacher Interviews

Upcoming

22nd Aug - Parent Opinion Survey closes

23rd Aug - Book Week colouring competition closes

24th Aug - School Council, 7pm

17th Sep - Last day Term 3, 2.20pm dismissal

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The newsletter is compiled on Monday. All items need to be submitted by 1:30pm to be included

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

One day my Granny just stopped buying the newspapers, she said “I am really careful not to eat too much salt or fat or sugar, I look after what I put in my body – the news makes me so sad, I need to look after what I put in my mind too, so I am not buying the papers anymore”. I thought she was bonkers; it was important to know what is going on in our world.

These days the news is EVERYWHERE – radio, internet, papers. We don’t have a TV but I have picked up a bit of a habit of listening to the news ALL the time. I see a clock on the hour and if I am at home, I turn the radio up or if I am in the car, I do the same.

Last week while I was listening to the news became overwhelmed with emotion for the young people presenting and discussing the news each day on my radio station. It must be so hard to deliver the news these days and do it with such empathy and kindness.

SO, on Sunday I decided to NOT listen to the news. We took a family adventure to the snow sound-tracked by fun music, a mum made quiz and a funny talking book.

We swapped news and our 4 walls to be out in nature together as a family, take risks on the slopes, learn our limits, and laugh and smile for the day.

I came home with new ideas and hope. My daughters and I made plans for the garden, and we talked about things we COULD do to make the world a better place right now.

I think my Granny was onto something, I might not be ready to ditch the news altogether but limiting my listening / googling to things I can’t change might make me more productive to change the things that I CAN change.

It is so important that we look after our beautiful minds right now, so that we can do wonderful things with them rather than become overwhelmed with sadness and worry. Googling COVID Victoria numerous times a day is not going to change the numbers but weeding the garden might lift your spirits and make room for better things to grow!

Please be in touch if you need a chat

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ❖ Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- ❖ We have zero tolerance of any abuse of children.
- ❖ We have policies and procedures in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children.
- ❖ There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with our students.
- ❖ The new Child Safe Standards go further than child protection arrangements did in the past.
- ❖ The Child Safe Standards apply to school staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and students’ family members.
- ❖ Keeping children safe is everyone’s responsibility.
- ❖ To ensure you know how we are keeping your children safe at school, and how we would like you to support us.
- ❖ Unsupervised contractors will be asked about their child safety arrangements as a condition of working with us if they work with children enrolled in the school (or children can reasonably be expected to be present while they are at the school).

Please see further information on Child Safe Standards on our school website.

Community members are encouraged to raise any concerns about child abuse with the Principal or report directly to Child Protection / Police.